Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, October 6th marks the anniversary of the founding in 1683 of the first German settlement in North America, and since that event, millions of German-speaking peoples have emigrated to this nation where they and their descendents have made innumerable contributions to all aspects of life in the United States of America; and,

Whereas, Now almost one in four United States citizens is of full or partial German heritage, and many settlers from various German origins, their children and their descendants, have made their home in South Dakota and have served in most of the facets of endeavor which formed and continue to form the character and nature of our state; and,

Whereas, The 2003 International Convention of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society was held in Rapid City this September, where it was hosted for the first time by its Black Hills Chapter, and the members and chapters of this society throughout the state continue to study, record, and add to South Dakota's heritage; and,

Whereas, The Presidents of the United States since 1987 have proclaimed October 6th as the annual date for the nation to recognize and appreciate its German heritage; and,

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2003, as

GERMAN AMERICA DAY 2003

in South Dakota, and I call upon the citizens of South Dakota to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Americans of German descent in the development and character of our fair state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State